GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:190
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POVERTY
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day International Conference on Poverty attended by National and International experts was recently held at Patna in July, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Conference had concluded that the criteria/methodology applied by the Planning Commission for determining the extent of poverty in this country are deeply flawed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to change the criteria/methodology to determine the extent of poverty in the light of the decisions of the aforesaid Conference; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING(SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 190 REGARDING 'INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POVERTY' BY DR. M. JAGANNATH DUE FOR ANSWER ON 28th NOVEMBER, 2007 (10th POSITION)

Yes, Sir. A three-day international conference on 'Revisiting the Poverty Issue: Measurement, Identification and Eradication', was organized jointly by Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, A. N. Sinha, Institute of Social Studies and Asian Development Research Institute, Patna, during July 20-22, 2007 in Patna.

The conference discussed the issues relating to measurement of poverty and identification of poor. A consensus statement circulated in the conference noted the method of poverty estimation by the Planning Commission and the BPL (Below Poverty Line) census conducted by the State Governments to identify the poor households, and suggested their review.

The Planning Commission in December 2005 constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar. The report of the group is awaited.